

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1 [HCR 1]

BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-third General Assembly, First Regular Session of the State of Missouri, the Senate concurring therein, that the House of Representatives and the Senate convene a joint session in the Hall of the House of Representatives at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, January 12, 2005, to receive a message from His Honor Ronnie L. White, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Missouri; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a committee of ten (10) from the House be appointed by the Speaker to act with a committee of ten (10) from the Senate, appointed by the President Pro Tem, to wait upon the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Missouri and inform His Honor that the House of Representatives and Senate of the Ninety-third General Assembly, First Regular Session, are now organized and ready for business and to receive any message or communication that His Honor may desire to submit, and that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be directed to inform the Senate of the adoption of this resolution.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2 [HCR 2]

BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-third General Assembly, First Regular Session of the State of Missouri, the Senate concurring therein, that the House of Representatives and the Senate convene a joint session in the Hall of the House of Representatives at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, January 26, 2005, to receive a message from His Excellency, the Honorable Matt Blunt, Governor of the State of Missouri; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a committee of ten (10) from the House be appointed by the Speaker to act with a committee of ten (10) from the Senate, appointed by the President Pro Tem, to wait upon the Governor of the State of Missouri and inform His Excellency that the House of Representatives and Senate of the Ninety-third General Assembly, First Regular Session, are now organized and ready for business and to receive any message or communication that His Excellency may desire to submit, and that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be directed to inform the Senate of the adoption of this resolution.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9 [HCR 9]

WHEREAS, the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) of the federal Social Security Act penalize people who have dedicated their lives to public and military service by taking away benefits they have earned; and

WHEREAS, nine out of ten public employees affected by the GPO lose their entire spousal benefit, even though their spouse paid Social Security taxes for many years; and

WHEREAS, the WEP causes hard-working people to lose up to sixty percent of the benefits they earned themselves; and

WHEREAS, many workers rely on misleading Social Security Administration statements that fail to take into account the GPO and WEP when projecting benefits; and

WHEREAS, the impact of the GPO and WEP is not just felt in those states in which public employees, including retired veterans, are not covered by Social Security, because people move from state to state and affected individuals are everywhere; and

WHEREAS, the GPO and WEP apply to Missouri retired veterans; and

WHEREAS, the number of people affected across the country is growing every day as more and more people reach retirement age; and

WHEREAS, some 300,000 individuals lose an average of \$3,600 a year due to the GPO which can make the difference between self-sufficiency and poverty; and

WHEREAS, these people have less money to spend in their local economy and sometimes have to turn to expensive government programs like food stamps to make ends meet; and

WHEREAS, the nation should respect, not penalize, public and military service; and

WHEREAS, the GPO and WEP are established in federal law and repeal of the GPO and WEP can only be enacted by the United States Congress:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-third General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate concurring therein, hereby urge the Congress of the United States to immediately repeal the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision of the Social Security Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and the members of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 10 [HCR 10]

BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-third General Assembly, First Regular Session of the State of Missouri, the Senate concurring therein, that the House of Representatives and the Senate convene a joint session in the Hall of the House of Representatives at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, February 2, 2005, to receive a message from Pete K. Rahn, Director of the Missouri Department of Transportation; and that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be directed to inform the Senate of the adoption of this resolution.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15 [HCR 15]

WHEREAS, the United States has no integrated nationwide automated system for monitoring the safety history or violation records of Mexican companies and drivers, or a system to verify driver's licenses or drug testing for drivers, and it is therefore difficult for Missouri law enforcement personnel to obtain essential safety data; and

WHEREAS, if trucks from Mexico are allowed access to the State of Missouri, verification of foreign insurance policies and access to foreign judicial systems will be very difficult when accidents occur, possibly resulting in the delay of settlements and payments to the injured citizens of the State of Missouri; and

WHEREAS, Mexico does not have labeling of hazardous or toxic cargo which poses a clear and present danger to the security of the State of Missouri if trucks transporting such cargo enter territory of the state without prior inspection at the border of the United States; and

WHEREAS, large quantities of illegal drugs are smuggled into Missouri from foreign nations, including Mexico:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-third General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate concurring therein, hereby urge the Governor of the State of Missouri, the President of the United States, and the members of the United States Congress to oppose any effort to allow

trucks to enter the State of Missouri without first being inspected at the border of the United States and Mexico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri General Assembly memorializes the Missouri Congressional Delegation to restrict trucks from Mexico and other foreign nations from entering the United States until there is full compliance by the owners and drivers of those trucks with all highway safety, environmental, and drug enforcement laws; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for Governor Matt Blunt, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of the Missouri Congressional Delegation.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 20 [HCR 20]

AN ACT

Relating to the designation of October fifteenth as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

WHEREAS, according to a 1996 study by the Centers for Disease Control, 16% of six million-plus pregnancies ended in either a miscarriage or a stillbirth, or almost a million perinatal losses. Of those six million-plus pregnancies, 62% (3,720,000) ended in live births, and 26,784 of those births ended in infant deaths from eleven months and younger. This does not reflect the 22% who are lost to abortion; and

WHEREAS, the availability of information and support is of the utmost importance to families who suffer from pregnancy and infant loss to better help them cope; and

WHEREAS, a public that is informed and educated about pregnancy and infant loss can better learn how to respond with compassion to affect families; and

WHEREAS, professionals who come in contact with families who have suffered pregnancy or infant loss, such as physicians, clergy, emergency medical technicians, funeral directors, police officers, public health nurses, and employers, can better serve families if they have special training and better knowledge of pregnancy and infant loss; and

WHEREAS, a Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day on October fifteenth is set aside to remember all of the pregnancies and infants lost in order to heal and be comforted in a time of pain and heartache, and to have hope for the future:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-third General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate concurring therein, hereby proclaim October fifteenth of each year as "Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to the Governor for his approval or rejection pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.

Approved July 14, 2005

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 23 [HCR 23]

WHEREAS, following breast cancer, cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in women worldwide after breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, according to United States cervical cancer statistics, the disease is the third most common gynecological cancer among American women. With approximately 12,200 new cases diagnosed annually, 4,100 of these cases result in death; and

WHEREAS, with regular and accurate screening, cervical cancer is highly preventable with regular and accurate screening; and

WHEREAS, widespread screening programs have helped reduce death rates from cervical cancer, but women are still dying even with such advanced medical techniques and evaluative procedures; and

WHEREAS, cervical cancer cases in the United States are generally attributed to lack of education, a reduction of access available to regular cervical cancer screening, and a lack of screening accuracy; and

WHEREAS, experience shows that increasing cervical cancer awareness among women, especially underserved women within our state, significantly reduces the probability of mortality; and

WHEREAS, cervical cancer disproportionately affects minority women and women with lower incomes because they are less likely to have access to routine screening; and

WHEREAS, approximately one-half of all cervical cancer cases are in women who have never been screened, and ten percent of cases are in women who have not been screened within the last five years; and

WHEREAS, the median age of cervical cancer patients at diagnosis is 47 years, the youngest median age for all female reproductive cancers; and

WHEREAS, new screening technologies, including FDA-approved testing for human papillomavirus, which is the cause of virtually all cervical cancers, offer new opportunities to finally eliminate this potentially deadly disease through early identification of women at increased risk; and

WHEREAS, leading medical organizations, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Cancer Society, and the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals have recently updated their screening guidelines to include FDA-approved testing for human papillomavirus; and

WHEREAS, women are entitled to proper cervical cancer information so they can be empowered to make informed health care decisions, and are entitled to access to routine screening, including the most accurate methods available:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-third General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate concurring therein, hereby recognize that through education and screening women can lower their likelihood for developing cervical cancer, and that through early detection cervical cancer can be successfully treated after it develops; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Missouri General Assembly supported the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and the Missouri Cancer Consortium in taking the lead in formulating the Comprehensive Cancer Action Plan for Missouri, including the review of data regarding cervical cancer and human papillomavirus of women in Missouri, evaluating current methods used to provide women with information regarding cervical cancer, access to regular screening, and options for increasing screening accuracy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Missouri General Assembly supports the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and the Missouri Cancer Consortium in the identification of pockets of need, priority strategies, and new technologies, including new

introduced therapies and preventive vaccines which are effective in preventing and controlling cervical cancer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Missouri General Assembly directs that the Comprehensive Cancer Action Plan for Missouri, which serves as a nationwide model of effective cancer control strategies, be presented annually to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, President Pro Tem of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and be posted on the Missouri state web site homepage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Governor Matt Blunt, Lieutenant Governor Peter Kinder, the Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services, and the Missouri Cancer Consortium.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24 [HCS HCR 24]

WHEREAS, the Missouri General Assembly during the Second Regular Session of the 91st General Assembly passed House Bill No. 1973 by a vote of 130-11 and 30-0 calling for a study (The Study) of steps to improve economic and financial education in Missouri schools; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Missouri signed Executive Order 02-08 calling for the Missouri Council on Economic Education to conduct the same study; and

WHEREAS, The Study was financed by over \$90,000 of private contributions from Missouri organizations and was completed by the Missouri Council on Economic Education on behalf of and submitted to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Commissioner of Education submitted The Study to the Governor and leaders of the Missouri General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, The Study listed five recommendations for improvement and expansion of economic and financial education for Missouri students from kindergarten through high school; and

WHEREAS, the need for implementation in Missouri of the five recommendations of The Study has continued to increase:

(1) In 2004, Missouri high school students scored a failing grade of 53.8% on a national survey of personal finance knowledge; and

(2) MAP tests of economic knowledge for Missouri middle and high school students consistently score 54% - 56% correct over the last five years; and

WHEREAS, nationally:

(1) Two-thirds of American adults and students did not know that inflation reduces the value of their money;

(2) Among parents with children five or older, only 26% feel well prepared to teach their children about basic personal finances;

(3) 64% of consumers ages 18 to 24 do not know the interest rates on their credit cards;

(4) In 2003, teens spent \$175 billion, averaging \$103 per week; and

(5) In 2004, the national household savings rate was 0.8%, the lowest since the Great Depression; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Commissioner of Education has convened the Taskforce on the High School that may be recommending to the Missouri State Board of Education adoption of The Study's recommendation number 4 calling for a required course in personal finance economics for graduation:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-third General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate

concurring therein, hereby commend the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Missouri Taskforce on the High School for their work and are encouraged to complete the steps necessary to recommend coursework in personal finance economics to the Missouri State Board of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Missouri State Board of Education be encouraged to accept the recommendation as prepared by the Missouri Commissioner of Education and the Missouri Taskforce on the High School for coursework in personal finance economics; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Missouri State Board of Education be encouraged to accept recommendations from The Study to:

(1) Recommend the extensive kindergarten through high school curriculum resources listed in The Study to school districts for use with teachers and students;

(2) Build grade-level objectives in grades leading up to high school coursework that reflects the new expectations for such coursework;

(3) Continue planning to incorporate into the social studies MAP test additional questions reflecting the new expectations for personal finance and economics;

(4) Continue working with teacher certification institutions in Missouri to require training to prepare teachers for the new grade-level objectives and the personal finance economics coursework; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the Missouri Commissioner of Education and the Missouri State Board of Education.
